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LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, in conformity with the request of the Security Council of 1 May 1995 (S/PRST/1995/23), the limited police and territorial defence action aimed at ensuring the safety and security of the Zagreb-Belgrade highway and the adjoining railway was terminated today, 2 May 1995, at 1400 hours local time. The objectives of the action have been completed and safety and security are being restored to the area.

I should also like to inform you that today, at 1025 hours local time, the Serbian paramilitary forces launched a terrorist attack at the very centre of Zagreb. Several rockets landed on crowded city streets, one in the immediate vicinity of Zagreb's Catholic Cathedral. Two rockets hit a junior high school. Preliminary information shows at least 5 persons killed and 115 wounded. This follows several attacks on Karlovac and Sisak by Croatian Serbs, and renewed attacks on the Dubrovnik area by Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces, acting in coordination with Croatian Serbs.

In the course of the operation to reopen and secure the highway and the railway, every precaution has been taken to ensure the safety and security of civilian population in the area of operations. The Government has issued clear statements that relevant authorities have no intention of continuing with the police action once the limited action aimed at restoring the security of the highway and the railway has been completed. Presently, the relevant government authorities are negotiating the safe disbanding of some 600 Serbian paramilitary troops in a Western Slavonia enclave.

On the other hand, the Serbian paramilitary units have deliberately targeted the civilian population of Croatia's capital city and other population centres. My Government can interpret this action only as a sign that the Serbs in the occupied territories want to continue their terrorist actions. The Croatian Government will not respond to the terrorist attacks, notwithstanding the fact that they caused a total of 12 fatalities. Should, however, those attacks continue, Croatia will be compelled to respond and disengage the positions of the Serbian paramilitary forces, taking into consideration the continuing safety of the Serbian civilian population in the areas of attack.

Croatia remains committed to its long-standing policy of negotiation and peaceful reintegration of its occupied territories, and will act in a manner consistent with the letter and the spirit of the presidential statement of the Security Council.

I would kindly request your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative